

**OPEN CALL**  
**BY THE REGIONAL YOUTH COOPERATION OFFICE**  
**FOR PARTICIPATION IN THE TRAINING FOR PROJECT PROPOSAL DEVELOPMENT**  
**FOR CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANISATIONS IN SERBIA**

*RYCO Local Branch Office in Serbia is opening a call for participation in capacity-building training for the preparation of project proposals enhancing mobility, regional cooperation, peacebuilding, reconciliation and youth activism in the Western Balkans, for representatives of civil society organisations from Serbia. The training is implemented with the support of the OSCE Mission to Serbia.*

RYCO is an independently functioning intergovernmental mechanism established to promote the spirit of reconciliation and cooperation between young people in the Western Balkans through youth exchange programs. As part of its work, RYCO supports projects that contribute to reconciliation in the region by increasing youth mobility, cooperation and activism. In order for as many interested parties as possible to have the opportunity to respond to RYCO and similar calls for project proposals, RYCO organizes capacity-building trainings in this domain. The guidelines and tools presented at the training will support interested representatives of CSOs to apply for the RYCO calls for project proposals.

**DATE:** August 24–27, 2026 (a preparatory online meeting will take place in mid-August.)

**PLACE:** Hotel Zepter, Vrnjačka 12, Vrnjačka Banja, Serbia

**PURPOSE OF THE TRAINING:**

The overall goal of the training is to empower civil society organizations to independently and successfully develop and prepare project proposals within the thematic areas of UN Agenda Youth, Peace and Security, while respecting the principles of inclusive youth participation. Through the four-day training, the participants will receive a theoretical basis, as well as the opportunity to practically and independently work in small groups on developing universal elements in project applications - from justifying the idea, through setting goals and activities, to forming a realistic budget and considering the relationship with the public. In addition, participants will learn about the concepts of intercultural dialogue, peacebuilding and reconciliation, youth participation, as well as the possibilities of establishing partnerships in the region. *All participants will also receive a specialized Manual for the preparation of project proposals as well as a participatory social game for involving young people in designing project proposals.* These tools are developed by RYCO and OSCE Mission to Serbia and will be used as part of the training to support participants' understanding of project development cycle.

Working language of the training is Serbian.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> One of the conditions for applying to the open calls of the Regional Youth Cooperation Office is that the project proposal must be written in English. Knowledge of the English language is therefore expected from the selected training participants.

## WHO SHOULD APPLY:

The training is intended for representatives of civil society organizations without previous experience or with limited experience in preparing project proposals and their implementation. The criteria that will be taken into account during the selection of participants are as follows:

| REPRESENTATIVES OF CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANISATIONS                                                                                                |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| → Who plan to lead the process of project proposal development in their organization                                                          |
| → Who are motivated to enhance their capacities for project development and can commit to participate for the entire duration of the training |
| → Who do not have or have limited experience as lead applicants or partners in regional projects                                              |
| → Who have not been the lead applicant or partner of a project financed by RYCO                                                               |
| → CSOs from smaller and/or multi-ethnic communities are especially encouraged                                                                 |
| → CSOs interested in applying to the RYCO Open Call for proposals are especially encouraged                                                   |

## HOW TO APPLY:

The deadline for application is on August 7, 2026 at 17:00 P.M. Participation is limited to the one representative from one organization. Applications are made by filling out the form on the link: <https://forms.cloud.microsoft/e/XCC4iwgKPe> .

Transportation and accommodation costs are covered by the organizers.

The selection of participants will be made on the basis of the criteria specified in this invitation, while ensuring the gender and geographical balance. The results of the selection will be announced not later than August 12, 2026.

## CONTACT:

For further questions please contact Ivana Markulić Stanković from RYCO Local Branch Office in Serbia at [ivanamarkulic.stankovic@rycowb.org](mailto:ivanamarkulic.stankovic@rycowb.org) .

*Note: Participation in the training does not guarantee the allocation of funds for the implementation of project proposals by the RYCO.*